

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

Vol. 10, No. 2 February 2014

Peace Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We believe, teach, and confess the doctrine of the evangelical, catholic faith as it is taught by Holy Scripture and faithfully confessed in the Book of Concord of 1580. We are committed to the pure preaching of God’s Word and the right administration of the Holy Sacraments, catechesis of all people in the Christian faith, and liturgical worship consistent with our Reformation heritage. We are an evangelical, orthodox, and catholic congregation, proclaiming Jesus Christ crucified, risen, and reigning for the salvation of the world!



Fifty Years of God’s Grace

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From the Desk of Pastor Messer

“I Can’t Explain Why We Shouldn’t Murder Disabled Children”

By Matt Walsh

I never heard of Matt Walsh until a couple months ago, when I saw a link to his blog posted by a pastor friend of mine on Facebook, and checked it out. I’ve been a big fan of his writing ever since. I appreciate the way he tackles the issues of our age with wit and precision, mixed together with some appropriate sarcasm to highlight many of the absurdities of thought out there today. What follows is an article Mr. Walsh published on his blog (www.themattwalshblog.com) on December 22, 2013, which I think is worth sharing, especially since last week witnessed the 41st anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

I don’t know.

I don’t know how else to explain this. Can I really formulate an argument that will *explain* why we shouldn’t murder disabled children? If you don’t immediately recognize the eugenic slaughter of handicapped babies as something severely troubling, I’m not sure that I can offer any insights to help you understand.

You see, this is the problem. This is why we can’t come to any agreements. This is why our arguments are fruitless. They don’t have to be — arguing could be a rather worthwhile activity. But a constructive argument, or debate, or dialogue, or whatever you want to call it, requires both parties to have *some* shared concept of right vs wrong and fact vs fiction. Without that, neither side can appeal to the other, because they both exist in entirely different universes.

So, me personally, I’m livin’ over here in a world where it’s never OK to execute a disabled baby, or any baby, for any reason. In fact, in my universe — a universe we might call “reality” — the murder of children could be, without hyperbole, classified as THE worst thing. It is the worst of all that is bad. It is the lowest of low. It is the ugliest of ugly. It is the Pinnacle of Wrong. If it isn’t wrong to kill children, then it can not be wrong to do anything else.

Let me say that again, because it’s a crucial point: If it isn’t wrong to kill children, then it can not be wrong to do anything else.

Literally anything else.

Slavery? Genocide? How can they be condemned? Of what sort of moral standard have they fallen short? If the bar has sunken low enough so that infanticide can leap above it, then I doubt that any atrocity could find a way to limbo underneath.

Believe it or not, even politically incorrect comments about homosexuality have to be excused if we are to believe that baby killing is a moral act.

I’m often told that I need to be more understanding on this topic, but this is an unfair request. There are people — millions of them, in fact — who think it should be legal to murder babies, but then illegal to, say, pay a fast food worker less than minimum wage, or refuse to bake a wedding cake for a gay couple. How could I possibly understand this mentality? How could I wrap my head around the thought process that leads one to conclude that the latter cases are so atrocious — so dehumanizing — that they ought to be outlawed, but the former case is so

acceptable that it ought to be vigorously defended, and even funded, by the federal government?

Understanding? No. I do not understand. I do not. And I hope that I never do. CS Lewis wrote about the Abolition of Man, and reading his book is the closest I can come to understanding a society that has devolved into this kind of murderous insanity. He wrote:

“The Tao, which others may call Natural Law or Traditional Morality or the First Principles of Practical Reason or the First Platitudes, is not one among a series of possible systems of value. It is the sole source of all value judgments. If it is rejected, all value is rejected. If any value is retained, it is retained. The effort to refute it and raise a new system of value in its place is self-contradictory. There has never been, and never will be, a radically new judgment of value in the history of the world. What purport to be new systems or ideologies all consist of fragments from the Tao itself, arbitrarily wrenched from their context in the whole and then swollen to madness in their isolation, yet still owing to the Tao and to it alone such validity as they possess.”

We have arbitrarily wrenched certain values from the One Source of all values, and they have now swollen to madness in their isolation.

I say all of this because my initial intention was to sit down and write about the couple in Washington who [just won](#) a 50 million dollar “wrongful birth” settlement. Brock and Rhea Wuth sued a hospital because their son was born severely disabled. No, they were not alleging that the hospital caused the disability; they alleged that the hospital (and a lab testing facility) did not run the correct tests that would have detected the genetic defects while the child was still in the womb. Had they been given the correct tests, they would have known that the baby was “defective,” and then killed it. Tragically, they were robbed of the opportunity to abort their son, so the hospital must pay for the son’s care — for the rest of his life.

Oh, but don’t judge them: they still “love” their child. They wish he was dead, they wish they had killed him, but they still “love” him. Make no judgments. Offer no stern words. They sued a hospital for not giving them the chance to kill their child, but do not think yourself qualified to condemn such a thing.

Or that’s what I’ve been told, anyway.

So I sat down and intended to write about this case. I was going to explore all of the angles. I was going to point out, as a secondary issue, how these “wrongful birth lawsuits” (this one is hardly the first) will serve to make it even more expensive to have a baby at a hospital. Think of the liability issues involved if medical establishments can now be sued for *not* killing your baby. I was going to explain how this story is an inevitable side effect of the death cult philosophy which tells us that human life is worthless, and a parent’s right to convenience and comfort can trump a child’s right to the life God gave it. I was going to point out how the Nazis also murdered the disabled for the same reason we do: to rid society of those who might be considered a “burden.”

Here’s an excerpt from Hitler’s Law for the Prevention of Hereditary Diseased Offspring:

Since the National Revolution public opinion has become increasingly preoccupied with questions of demographic policy and the continuing decline in the birthrate. However, it is not only the decline in population which is a cause for serious concern but equally the increasingly evident genetic composition of our people. Whereas the hereditarily healthy families have for the most part adopted a policy of having only one or two children, countless numbers of inferiors and those suffering from hereditary conditions are reproducing unrestrainedly while their sick and asocial offspring burden the community.

I was going to say that abortion apologists have, in more than one way, aligned themselves with one of the most wicked political regimes in the history of mankind.

I was going to explain why this is not a good thing.

I was going to explain why disabled children shouldn’t be murdered.

I was going to explain why all children, disabled or not, should be protected.

I was going to, but I can’t. These facts are self evident, and I can’t explain a self evident fact. I’m not that good.

If you don’t understand, I can’t make you. All I can do is pray for your soul.

And I will. I promise.

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



FEBRUARY

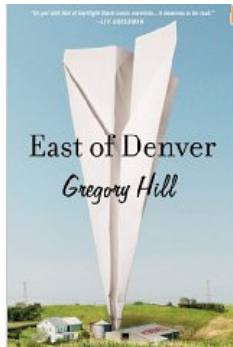
Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Sierra Luplow | 21 Coaline Luplow |
| 6 Dorothy Wisner | 24 Melanie Penzien |
| 12 Yvonne Elenbaas | 24 Jeffrey Sager |
| 15 Gabriel Blair | |

If we ever miss your birthday or anniversary, please let us know so that we can update our records.

PEACE BOOK CLUB

The Book Club met January 21 to discuss *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. We all agreed that it was a very well written book that held our interest and made us think. It took place in the early 1940's Nazi Germany and followed the life of German families struggling to make ends meet and to cope with war and Nazi rule. It isn't exactly about that you "like", but one to appreciate. We gave it a rating of 4 out of 5.



In order to lighten things up a bit, we decided to go with *East of Denver* by Gregory Hill as our book in February. Winner of the 2013 Colorado Book Award for Literary Fiction, it is "a poignant, daryl comic debut novel about a father and son finding their way together as their livelihood inexorably disappears."

We will meet at the home of Yvonne Elenbaas on Tuesday, February 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Our conversations are always entertaining. All are welcome! Please join us!

SALT NEWS

Next SALT meeting will be held February 11, 2014, 6:30 p.m. at the church.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Please see our Meeting Minutes on the SALT Bulletin Board

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

We will meet on Tuesday, February at 1:00 pm at Mancinos. Please join us. The more the merrier!

REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS

We all love to receive greetings from people who care for us. What better way to remember our shut-ins (when it is difficult for us to make a personal visit) than to send a note or a card periodically to let them know we are thinking of them and to give them something to look forward to in the mail. Please consider dropping a few lines to our shut-ins during the course of each month.

Marlene Wiltshire
Warwick Living Center
842 W. Warwick Dr.
Alma, MI 48801

Joan Burch
Schnepp Health Center
427 E. Washington
St. Louis, MI 48880

Also, while correspondence is not requested for him, please remember our dear brother in Christ, Dick Wisner, who is at Pine River in St. Louis, in your prayers.

Ladies' Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild will meet on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 at 12:00 pm.** with Sharyn Greening as hostess. All Ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our Guild meetings. If you are a confirmed female member of Peace, you are a member of Guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the Guild.

PLC Women's Prayer Chain

The current list is posted on the Ladies' Guild Bulletin Board. All participants should have a copy. If you wish to be added to the prayer chain as a caller, or if you wish to have yourself or someone else "sent through the chain," please see or call Marlene Miller at 463-3710.

Altar Flowers

There is a flower calendar for 2014 is posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board. We are now working toward ordering altar flower arrangements that coordinate with and enhance the liturgical colors of each Season of the Church year. Depending on the dates, flowers may not always be displayed for a calendar month. Some Seasons of the Church year cross calendar months. If you wish to place flowers on the altar sometime during the year, please put your name on the calendar. A bouquet costs \$25. We encourage two persons (families) to purchase flowers each month, one for each plant stand. Please make checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church, attach a note marked "Altar Flowers" and place in the Financial Secretary's envelope in the church office. Any questions may be directed to Carol Zeile or Coaline Luplow.

PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD



The Ladies' Guild is collecting the following items to send to Lutheran World Relief:

BABY CARE KIT

- 2- LIGHTWEIGHT COTTON T-SHIRTS
- 2 -LONG OR SHORT-SLEEVED GOWNS OR SLEEPERS (without feet)
- 2 -RECEIVING BLANKETS
- 4- CLOTH DIAPERS
- 1- JACKET, SWEATER OR SWEATSHIRT WITH A HOOD
- 2- PAIRS OF SOCKS
- 1- HAND TOWEL
- 2- BATH-SIZE BARS OF GENTLE SOAP
- 2- DIAPER PINS OR LG. SAFETY PINS

COLLECTION DATES:

January 1 - March 31

PEACE LADIES GUILD COOKBOOK

Cookbooks are available for \$13.00 and can be purchased during fellowship time from any member of the Guild. Please see Coaline Luplow with any questions.

LADIES GUILD SELLS CUTLERY

Rada cutlery is on display the 3rd Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall during the coffee hour. We have seven different items in stock: Paring Knife, Large Slicer Knife, Tomato Slicer, Serrated Steak Knife, Spatula, Pie Server, and Veggie Peeler. A product catalogue is available for viewing and orders may also be placed through the catalog.



February

Marlene Miller

- 2 S. Greening/M.Brown
- 9 Lois Ramsey
- 16 M.Miller/C.Dargie
- 23 Carolyn Johnson

March

Altar Care

Carol Zeile

Coffee Hostesses

- 2 Jenny Baughman
- 9 Lisa Messer
- 16 Jo Wendt
- 23 Peace Youth Group
- 30 Amy Blair

April

Carol Zeile

- 6 Cassie Tennant
- 13 Lois Ramsey
- 20 EASTER
- 27 Y.Elenbaas/M.Girard



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

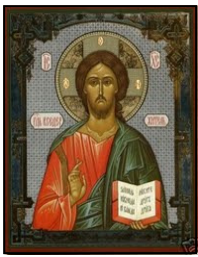
- Sunday School and Adult Bible Class (currently studying *Hosea*) is offered on **Sundays at 11 a.m.**

Wednesday Bible Studies

- At our **10:00 a.m. Bible Study**, we are currently studying *Ezra*.
- At our **6:00 p.m. Bible Study**, we are studying *Isaiab*.

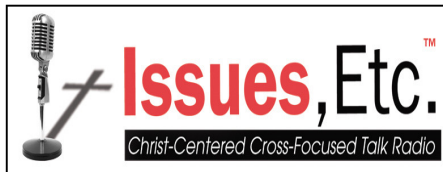
First Communion and Confirmation Classes

- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see Pastor Messer if interested); No Youth Confirmation Class this year.



**PASTOR MESSER
IS BLOGGING!**
www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

*Check in from time to time
to see what's on his mind.*



TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN!

Listen to what you want, when you want at:
www.issuesetc.org

PAROCHIAL REPORT (as of 1/31/14)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 130; Confirmed - 110

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 5

Shawna Greening, Rebekah, Ashleigh, Greg and John Rodriguez removed by request 1/26/2014

Financial Report as of 1/31/2014

YTD Budgeted.....\$8,704

YTD Receipts.....\$6,103

Difference.....- \$2,601

At the January 26, 2014 Voters' Assembly, the following 2014 budget was approved :

Expenses

Church/Worship: Altar & Worship	\$1,400
Church/Worship: Christian Ed.	\$300
Church/Worship: Music	\$3,300
Missions: Issues, Etc.	\$1,000
Operating Expense: Building Maintenance	\$1,000
Operating Expense: Insurance	\$2,290
Operating Expense: Office Expense	\$1,500
Operating Expense: Photocopier	\$1,350
Operating Expense: Telephone/Internet	\$1,720
Operating Expense: Utilities	\$5,475
Pastoral Expense: Benefit Package	\$22,000
Pastoral Expense: Book Allowance	\$500
Pastoral Expense: Conf. & Training	\$1,000
Pastoral Expense: Down Payment Loan	\$2,220
Pastoral Expense: Guest Pastors	\$200
Pastoral Expense: Mileage	\$3,500
Pastoral Expense: Salary	\$62,415
Pastoral Expense: Miscellaneous	\$2,000
Total:	\$113,170

SALT FUNDRAISER

Please support our Evangelism Committee by attending our...



Spaghetti Dinner & Movie Night!

Friday, February 14, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Menu

Spaghetti with sauce(s) of your choice (meat, marinara, alfredo)

Garlic bread

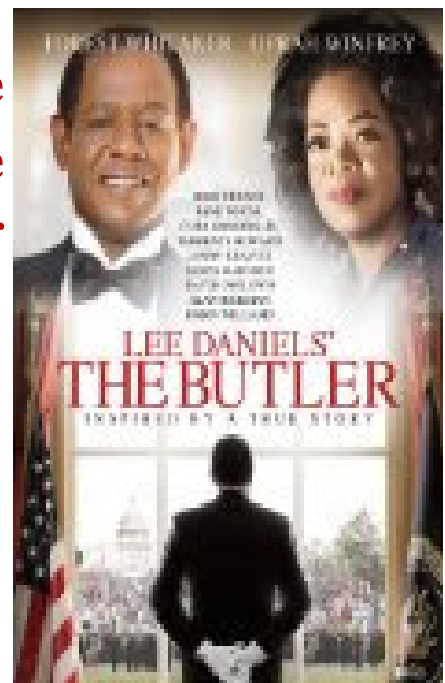
Salad

Wine and Punch

Valentine cake

Come and enjoy Valentine's Day! Friends and family are welcome to join us. A freewill offering will be taken to help support the work of SALT (suggested amounts: \$6/adult, \$3/child), but please do not feel like you cannot attend if you cannot give—everyone is welcome!






Following dinner we will watch the movie *The Butler*. If you are not able to make it for dinner, please join us for the movie.



Rev. Thomas C. Messer
 (989) 463-3093—Home
 pastor@peacealma.org
 pastormesser@gmail.com
 www.abidinmyword.blogspot.com

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February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Purification of Mary & Presentation of our Lord (Obs.) 8:30 am - Choir Practice 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 12:15 am - Remove Christmas decorations 	3	4 7:00 pm - Council	5 9:30 am - Matins 10:00 am - Bible Study 11:45 am - Sext 12 pm - Ladies' Guild 5:30 pm - Vespers 6 pm - Bible Study 7 pm - DS St. Jacob	6	7	8
9 Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:30 am - Choir Practice 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 	10	11 6:30 pm - SALT meeting	12 9:30 am - Matins 10:00 am - Bible Study 11:45 am - Sext 5:30 pm - Vespers 6 pm - Bible Study 7 pm - DS Sts Aquilla/Priscilla	13	14 6:00 pm - Spaghetti Dinner 7:00 pm - Movie (The Butler)	15
16 Septuagesima 8:30 am - Choir Practice 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 	17	18 1:00 am - Ladies' Lunch Bunch 7:30 pm - Book Club at the home of Yvonne Elenbaas	19 9:30 am - Matins 10:00 am - Bible Study 11:45 am - Sext 5:30 pm - Vespers 6 pm - Bible Study 7 pm - DS St. Martin Luther	20	21	22
23 Sexagesima 8:30 am - Choir Practice 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:00 am - Voters' Assembly 	24	25 7:00 pm - Stewardship Committee meeting	26 9:30 am - Matins 10:00 am - Bible Study 11:45 am - Sext 5:30 pm - Vespers 6 pm - Bible Study 7 pm - DS St. Matthias	27	28	March 1
2 Quinquagesima 8:30 am - Choir Practice 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 	3	4 7:00 pm - Council	5 ASH WEDNESDAY Lent Begins	6	7	8

Peace Lutheran Church
325 E. Warwick Dr.
Alma, MI 48801

Church: 989-463-5754
E-mail: contact@peacealma.org
Mary's Home: 989-463-3067
Pastor's Home: 989-463-3093
Pastor's Cell: 989-388-2037



The mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to welcome all people into the fellowship of God's love by proclaiming the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and to nurture our members with God's Holy Word and Sacraments.

Serving in February

	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
February				
2 - 9:30 am <i>Purification of Mary</i>	Gabriel Blair	Morgan Johnson Noah Cross	Daren Johnson Miguel Ortiz	Elliott Family
9 - 9:30 am <i>Transfiguration of our Lord</i>	Larry Elliott	Paige Harwager Sierra Luplow	Gabriel Blair James Sager	Sharyn Greening
16 - 9:30 am <i>Septuagesima</i>	Terry Luplow	Farrah Blair Aaron Cross	Chris Brown Jon Penzien	Helen Meyers
23 - 9:30 am <i>Sexagesima</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Myka Luplow Natalie Penzien	Aaron Messer Gary Miller	Lillian Manns Lois Ramsey
March				
2 - 9:30 am <i>Quinquagesima</i>	Gabriel Blair	Zane Luplow Paige Harwager	Tyrel Harwager John Lemmermann	Terry & Coaline Luplow

"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men" (Eph. 6:7)